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Terrorism Review [REDACTED] b3

10 August 1989

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Terrorism Review b3

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This review is published biweekly by the Directorate of Intelligence. Other elements of the CIA as well as other agencies of the US Intelligence Community are encouraged to submit articles for publication. b3

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Terrorism Review

10 August 1989

Focus

Libya: What's Qadhafi Up to Now?

Libyan leader Qadhafi has shown signs of moderation as he continues efforts to escape international isolation and makes plans to celebrate on 1 September the 20th anniversary of the coup that brought him to power. Probably to improve his image with Western governments and with the PLO mainstream, Qadhafi has tried to rein in several terrorist groups that have been publicly identified as Libyan clients. Nevertheless, the mercurial Libyan leader could quickly reverse his position: his strategic goals are unchanged, and his terrorism capability remains intact.

Reining in Some Clients

Qadhafi has taken several steps to improve his image, including curtailing attacks by three of his most notorious clients—the Abu Nidal organization (ANO), the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), and the Japanese Red Army (JRA).

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Qadhafi has several reasons for improving his public image. He hopes to see the West lift its sanctions and probably believes that an attack by one of his client groups would spoil his prospects for repairing relations with the West. At a minimum, an attack would jeopardize his hopes of attracting a number of high-ranking officials from Western Europe and moderate Arab countries to the 20th anniversary festivities. Qadhafi hopes that a large turnout—especially by friends of the United States—will legitimize his regime and induce Washington to improve relations. b3

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Qadhafi probably also calculates that supporting operations by his radical Palestinian clients against Yasir Arafat would be counterproductive at this time.

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[REDACTED]
Qadhafi probably calculates that the presence of radicals within the PLO mainstream will act as a brake on Arafat and increase Libyan influence while undercutting that of Syria. [REDACTED]

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Qadhafi's Dark Side

Despite these tactical adjustments, we believe Qadhafi's strategic goals remain the same: to end US, French, and British "colonialism"; unify the Arab world under Libyan leadership; and destroy the State of Israel.

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Outlook

Qadhafi is unlikely to alter his current moderate course before the 1 September festivities. He may revert to a more belligerent posture if Arab and African governments shun his anniversary celebrations, but this appears increasingly unlikely. Qadhafi, moreover, is likely to anticipate further progress toward rebuilding economic and political ties to the West. Therefore, he probably will continue to pressure clients—especially those that have been publicly linked to him—to refrain from mounting terrorist operations outside Israel and the occupied territories. Nonetheless, Tripoli may not be able to prevent some radicals—especially within the ANO—from carrying out a terrorist attack. [REDACTED] b3

Tripoli will probably continue to emphasize political activity over terrorism in the short term, especially with groups that have not demonstrated the capability to mount operations without substantial outside help. Over the long term, Qadhafi almost certainly believes that terrorism has a role to play in Libyan foreign policy. Although he has periodically ordered tactical standdowns to improve the image of his regime, he has consistently returned to terrorism as a primary tool for achieving his goals. [REDACTED] b3

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Highlights

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Significant Developments

Western Europe

France

Amnesty for Corsican Terrorists

France is continuing efforts to find a political solution to Corsican terrorism. The French National Assembly pardoned seven imprisoned members of the Corsican National Liberation Front (FLNC) and several jailed trade union activists on 3 July.

Action Directe Terrorists Convicted

France has successfully concluded efforts to eradicate the country's only significant leftwing domestic terrorist group. On 29 June a Lyon court sentenced leaders of the Lyon branch of the Action Directe (AD) terrorist group, Andre Olivier and Max Frerot, to life imprisonment. Another 16 members of AD-Lyon received lesser sentences for a variety of crimes ranging from criminal association and robbery to homicide.

The AD has conducted no attacks since being crippled by counterterrorist successes in 1987. Leaders of the AD-Internationalist wing were tried earlier this year for the murder of Renault President Georges Besse.

Italy

Proposal To Reduce Terrorists' Prison Terms

Italian officials are debating whether some antiterrorism measures enacted in 1980 should remain in force. On 4 July, 28 deputies sponsored a bill in the Italian Parliament to mitigate the sentences of Red Brigades members and other terrorists imprisoned for a decade. The bill covers all terrorist-related crimes except those involving loss of life and would allow life sentences to be converted to 21 years imprisonment and permit all other prison terms to be reduced by one-half. The bill's sponsors argue that the period of heightened terrorism is over; they see no reason to keep in force the emergency legislation enacted in 1980—one provision doubled the terms of imprisoned terrorists. The proposed legislation has not been referred to a parliamentary committee, and the debate over clemency for imprisoned terrorists is likely to continue. The bill—sponsored primarily by deputies from fringe leftwing parties with little political clout—is unlikely to become law.

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Middle East

Lebanon

Death of US Hostage

The Organization of the Oppressed on Earth announced on 31 July that it had hanged US Marine Lt. Col. William Richard Higgins. The announcement was accompanied by a videotape purporting to show Higgins's execution; however, the time of death has not been confirmed. Hizballah claims that the execution was done in retaliation for Israel's abduction on 28 July of Shaykh Ubayd, a Hizballah leader in southern Lebanon. The Organization of the Oppressed on Earth is one of several names under which Hizballah factions have claimed responsibility for hostage takings. Hizballah subsequently has threatened to kill other US hostages unless Ubayd is released. Israel continues interrogating Ubayd and has publicly expressed the desire to trade him for captive Israeli personnel and the Western hostages. [REDACTED] b3

Syria

SSNP Stepping Up Activity?

The Syrian Social Nationalist Party (SSNP)—a Syrian-supported, Lebanese-based group—has stepped up operational and organizational activity in recent months. [REDACTED] b1 b3

In the past, the SSNP has confined much of its operational activity to Lebanon. In 1985 the group carried out a series of suicide bomb attacks in southern Lebanon, killing an estimated 85 persons and wounding 276 others—most of the casualties were members of the Israeli army or pro-Israeli South Lebanon Army. Factional feuding within the SSNP over the past couple of years apparently disrupted the group's internal cohesion and operational activity. Having overcome internal differences, the group may now be trying to bolster its reputation, enlist financial support, and encourage recruitment. [REDACTED] b3

Latin America

Chile

Increasing Terrorist Violence

A new surge of terrorist violence has hit Chile in the past month. Most of the actions have been carried out by two associated terrorist groups, the Lautaro Youth Movement (MJL) and the Lautaro Popular Revolutionary Forces (FRPL), which have claimed responsibility for four attacks on Mormon chapels, the shooting of three policemen, and several robberies since the beginning of July. The characteristically active dissident faction of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (FPMR/D) contributed to the growing violence in two attacks on 27 July—a bomb was detonated near the Presidential Palace, and a radio station in Vina del Mar.

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was taken over to air proclamations against the government. Two new terrorist groups have been formed this past month—the People's Armed Revolutionary Movement (MORPA) emerged 14 July after claiming responsibility for the 10 July murder of a Chilean policeman, and the Rebel Socialists, who took over a radio station in Santiago 26 July to broadcast a recorded message against the 30 July plebiscite on constitutional reform. No further information is known about the groups' background or purpose.

The atmosphere of violence in Chile is likely to worsen as the presidential election in December approaches.

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Honduras

Bomb Defused at US-Funded Organization

On 10 July Honduran police defused a time bomb planted at a local educational organization funded by the US Agency for International Development (AID) and reportedly staffed by some US personnel. Eight sticks of dynamite wrapped with a timing device were reportedly found under a car in the parking lot beneath the organization's office. According to press reports, the organization had been threatened numerous times for its ties to AID.

This latest foiled attack comes amid increased threats and attacks on US targets.

[REDACTED]

Although the number of attacks has proliferated over the past six months, such threats have often failed to materialize. The far left probably has the capability to hit only low-risk, unprotected targets.

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Former Cinchonero Assassinated

The Cinchoneros Popular Liberation Movement (MPL) has claimed responsibility for the assassination of Pablo Flores Garcia on 22 July. The victim was killed outside his hut near La Lima, Honduras. Flores, who recently left the protection of the Honduran military, was found with a banner with MPL-Cinchonero printed on it. Press accounts report Flores belonged to the 4th Infantry Battalion before joining the Cinchoneros, and the guerrillas reportedly recruited him because of his military training. In 1986 he quit the group and served as an Army informer. Anonymous callers claimed the assassination was in retaliation for Flores's actions as an informer. The Cinchonero movement has been operating in rural and urban areas of Honduras since 1980 and has claimed responsibility for dynamite attacks, kidnappings, hijackings, and robberies of banks and private businesses.

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JRA: Down But Not Out

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Despite a standdown in operations, the Japanese Red Army (JRA) has continued to develop an extensive international support infrastructure, almost certainly for carrying out future attacks. This standdown is the longest since the organization emerged in 1986 after a nine-year quiescent period. For the first time since 1986, the group this year failed to mark the anniversary of the US airstrike on Libya with an attack; the group also failed to protest the Economic Summit, as it had in 1986 and 1987. The last operation we attribute to the JRA—using the claim name "Anti-Imperialist International Brigades"—was an unsuccessful mortar attack against the US Ambassador's residence in Madrid on 4 July 1988. Despite this lull, the record of the JRA clearly demonstrates a capability to recommence operations after devoting itself for extended periods to support activities such as training, target surveillance, and propaganda publication.

b3 [REDACTED] we believe the group is capable of renewing operations at any time. Prospects for JRA terrorist activity are likely to increase after Libya's 20th National Day celebrations in September, particularly if Qadhafi's overtures to the West are rebuffed and he decides to react with terrorism.

The JRA's Infrastructure

The small nucleus of 20 to 30 JRA core members has been impaired by arrests of some of its leading members:

- Osamu Maruoka—the JRA's second in command—
- Yu Kikumura—bomb expert—
- Yasuhiro Shibata—member of an affiliated group of JAL hijackers exiled in North Korea—
- Hiroshi Sensui—coordinator of the JRA cell in the Philippines—

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Although these arrests have hampered JRA capability, much of the group's infrastructure is intact and growing. The JRA's continuing development of an

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international support system can be explained reasonably only by the goal of launching new terrorist operations. Indicators of the extent of the JRA infrastructure include:

Shadowy World of JRA Supporters

JRA suggest the existence of a continuing support infrastructure there. Japan's counterterrorist experts believe the most likely allies of the JRA in Japan today are leftist radicals with connections to the group dating from the early 1970s.

Accounts of alleged supporter activity on behalf of the JRA nevertheless are shadowy.

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Philippines is attractive to the JRA primarily as a support base. [REDACTED]

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Timetable of Attacks Since 1977
Associated With JRA

Date	Incident	Interval	Probable Motive
September 1977	JAL hijacking, Bombay		Ransom
May 1986	US, Japanese, and Canadian Embassies, Jakarta—mortars and car bomb	Nine + years	Protest US air-strikes on Libya; Tokyo Economic Summit
February 1987	US Embassy, Madrid—mortar attack	Nine months	Anti-US
April 1987	US Embassy, Madrid, Ambassador's residence, USIS—mortar attacks	Two months	Mark US air-strikes on Libya
June 1987	US, UK Embassies, Rome—mortars and car bomb	Two months	Protest Venice Economic Summit
April 1988	USO Club, Naples—car bomb	10 months	Mark US air-strikes on Libya
July 1988	US Ambassador's residence, Madrid—mortar attack (failed)	Three months	Interfere with 4 July holiday

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Over the past year, however, Qadhafi may have restrained the JRA from carrying out attacks. We believe the Libyans are temporarily disavowing their support for terrorism in order to appear more reasonable to the international community. Although indicators of Libyan terrorist machinations continue to surface, Qadhafi probably judges the JRA's reputation as a Libyan surrogate is too well known to risk allowing the organization to conduct attacks.

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Outlook

We believe the probability of a return to action for the JRA will increase over the midterm. The JRA is likely to be planning attacks to free—or avenge—its members incarcerated in Japan and the United States. In addition, a Libyan policy change is increasingly likely after Qadhafi celebrates the 20th National Day commemorating his accession to power in September. If Qadhafi feels rebuffed by the refusal of prominent world leaders to attend festivities in Tripoli, he may judge he has little to lose by encouraging acts of terrorism.

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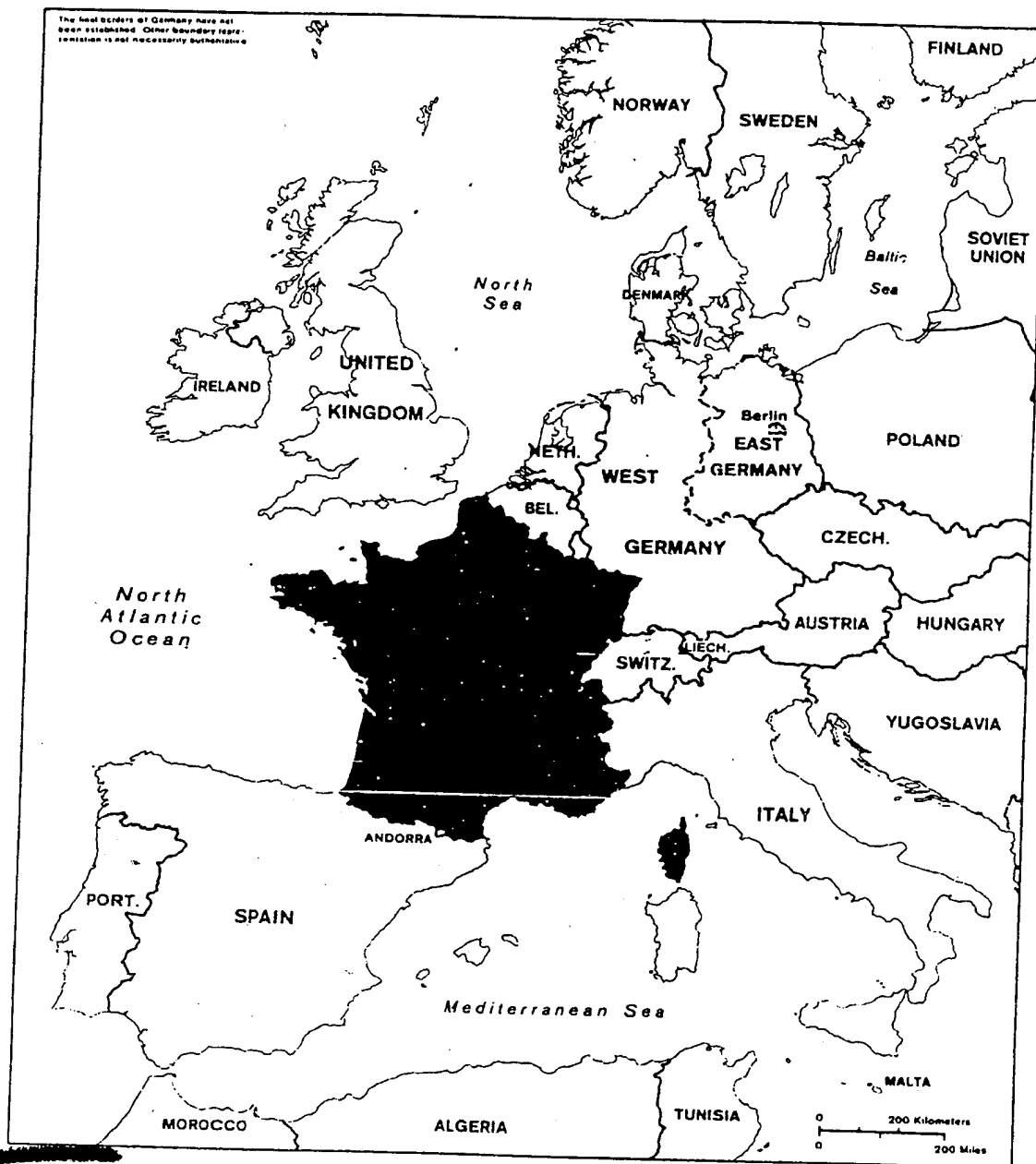
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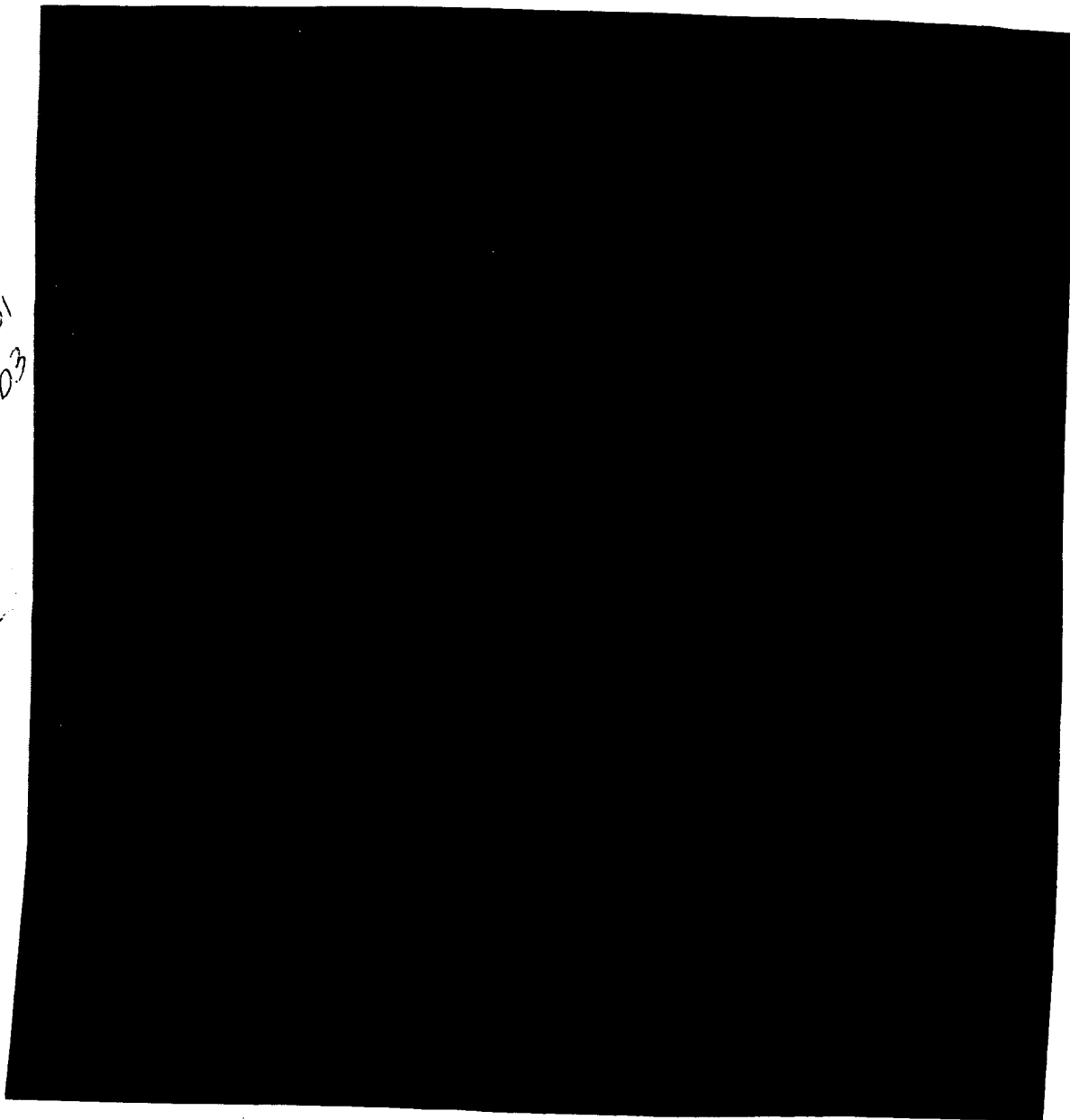
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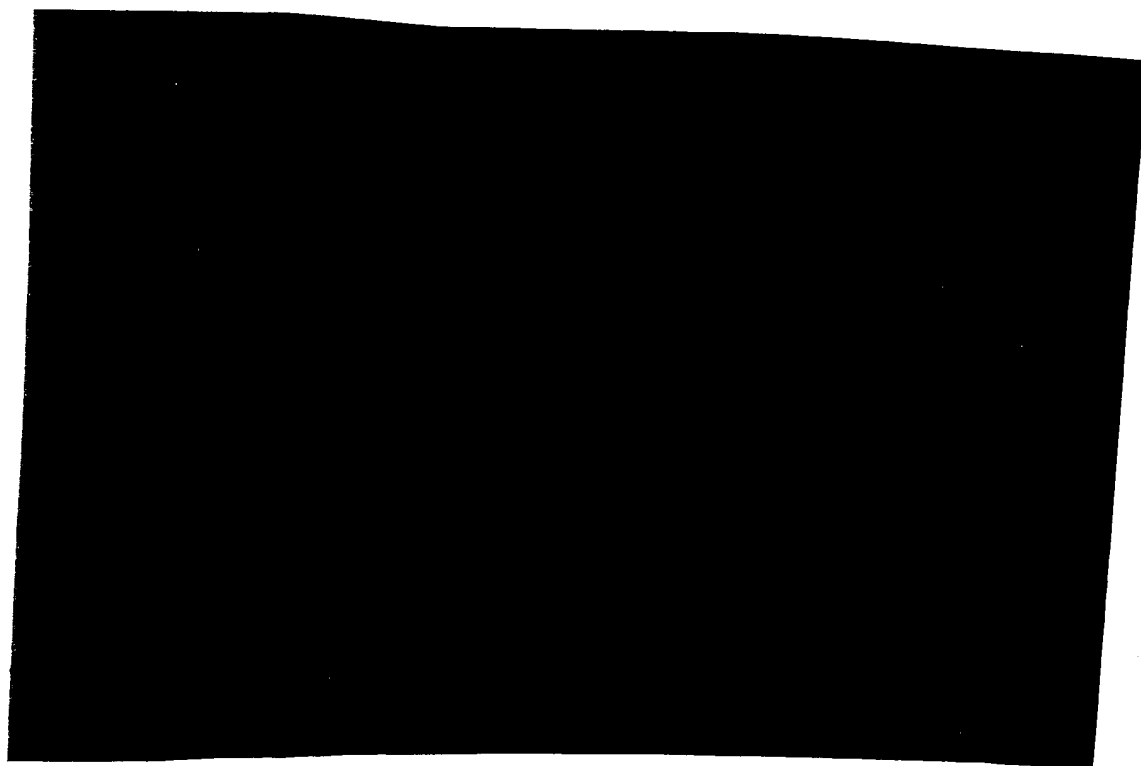
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Chronology of Terrorism—1989 b3

Below are described noteworthy foreign and international events involving terrorists or the use of terrorist tactics. These events have occurred or come to light since our last issue. In some cases, the perpetrators and their motivations may not be known. Events and developments that have already been described elsewhere in this publication are not included. b3

Western Europe

3 July

Northern Ireland: Triple bomb attack damages two aircraft and control tower at Belfast's Harbor Airport. The Provisional Irish Republican Army (PIRA) has claimed responsibility. b3

12 July

Turkey: Separatist terrorists abduct nine youths and set fire to school building near Sirnak. b3

14 July

Northern Ireland: Bomb damages Royal Ulster Constabulary station in West Belfast. b3

15 July

Northern Ireland: Explosion damages headquarters of British telephone company in Belfast. PIRA warned a local radio station 20 minutes before the blast. b3

18 July

Turkey: Package bomb explodes near headquarters of Turkish National Intelligence Organization. One youth was killed. The Kurdish Workers' Party is believed responsible. b3

19 July

Basque Fatherland and Liberty claims responsibility for assassinating two Army officers and their driver. b3, b1

Middle East

9 July

Israel: Unknown persons throw molotov cocktails at bus in Jerusalem, causing minor damage. No group has claimed responsibility. b3

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14 July

Gaza Strip: Group of masked men using metal bars and rocks kill Palestinian youth. The victim was a suspected collaborator. [REDACTED]

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20 July

Lebanon: Unknown gunmen shoot and kill senior official of Iraqi Baath Party in Sidon. No one has claimed responsibility. [REDACTED]

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Latin America

18 July

Peru: In Lima, unknown person throws bomb at two traffic policemen, injuring them. The bomb was thrown from a passing car. [REDACTED]

b3

19 July

Colombia: National Liberation Army (ELN) releases former American citizen Bruce Olson. The missionary had been kidnapped in October 1988. [REDACTED]

b3

El Salvador: Two unknown assailants shoot Gabriel Payes in San Salvador. The rightwing ideologue is in critical condition. [REDACTED]

b3

20 July

Costa Rica: Council of Government grants pardons to five members of La Familia terrorist group. The terrorists were convicted of two attempted kidnappings in 1982. [REDACTED]

b3

Honduras: Several propaganda bombs explode in Tegucigalpa. [REDACTED]

b3, b1

22 July

El Salvador: Central American University building housing printing shop is bombed, causing extensive damage. [REDACTED]

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23 July

Peru: Presumed Sendero Luminoso (SL) terrorists use dynamite and machineguns in attack on National Police post in Pacaran. Three policemen died and two were injured. [REDACTED]

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26 July

Colombia: Leader of 19th of April Movement Jorge Eliecer Russi murdered in prison in Medellin. "Commander Russi," as he was known, was captured during an urban guerrilla sweep by security officials in Medellin last September. [REDACTED]

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Guatemala: Two bombs explode in Guatemala City, causing property damage. One bomb exploded at a university and the other near the Italian Embassy. [REDACTED]

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South/East Asia

14 July

Japan: Police arrest two Chukaku-ha activists in Nagano Prefecture and another two weeks earlier in Tokyo. [REDACTED]

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17 July

India: Bomb explodes in shop near clock tower in Ludhiana, Punjab. Seven of the injured were security personnel. No group has claimed responsibility. [REDACTED]

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Pakistan: Bomb explodes near Lahore railway station, injuring six. The explosion destroyed workers' quarters; police suspect the bomb was intended for the railway line. No group has claimed responsibility. [REDACTED]

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19 July

Sri Lanka: Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) terrorists toss handgrenades at Buddhist and Hindu religious ceremony in Kataragama, killing 13 and wounding 60. [REDACTED]

b3

Pakistan: Bomb blast destroys nine buses at bus terminal in Mardan, North-West Frontier Province. [REDACTED] No group has claimed responsibility. [REDACTED]

b3

26 July

Sri Lanka: Two bombs explode inside State Bank of India in Colombo, injuring two employees. [REDACTED]

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27 July

Philippines: Security Forces arrest top Communist rebel leader Saturnino Ocampo along with his wife, Carolina Malay. Ocampo is a suspected member of the Politburo of the banned Communist Party of the Philippines, which controls the New People's Army. [REDACTED]

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Africa

23 July

South Africa: Bombs explode at police station and magistrate courts in Cape Town area, killing two persons. Police defused a bomb placed at another court. African National Congress members are suspected. [REDACTED]

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27 July

South Africa: Unknown persons firebomb nurses' home in Wynberg, near Johannesburg, wounding seven nurses and causing considerable damage. A half-hour before the blast, a black activist's apartment was firebombed, causing slight damage. [REDACTED]

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